

# Northminster Presbyterian Church

## *Advent Tidings*

Quarterly Newsletter

December 2022

## What's inside?

Fall updates, Winter Ideas, and More



**Advent begins our new  
year W Lectionary**



**Monthly Community Dinners on  
the 2nd Wednesday of every month**

## *Advent Activities*

- December 11th: Christmas Pageant & Gift sale, 10:30am
- December 14th: Christmas Party & Gift sale, 6:30pm
- December 21st: Longest Night Service, 7:00pm
- December 24th: Christmas Eve Service, 7:00pm
- December 25th: Christmas Day Service, 10:30am

# A Letter from Pastor Jeny

Hello Friends!

I'm extremely excited to launch our new Lectionary cycle this Advent using Year W: A Woman's Lectionary for the Whole Church by Dr. Wilda C. Gafney. For millennia, we have explored scripture through the male lens and most of us were raised to believe that the male experiences within scripture are universal for all people. Given that for the past 100 years, the number of women present in worship each week in churches around the globe has consistently outnumbered the men, it seems time to shift the focus for a while.

While women can certainly find hope, insight, and understanding in men's stories, adjusting for ourselves what we needed when the story didn't reflect us or our experiences, taking the time to focus on women's experiences in scripture is important. Often the stories of women in scripture reflect a time when women were property, had little to no decision-making power over their own lives, and frequently the stories limit women's contribution to the act of childbirth alone. That has an impact on how we view ourselves, our ministries, and our understanding of God.

This year, we will be digging deep into all the spaces where women appear in the text and examining their role as women, as leaders, and as beloved and faithful children of God. I hope you will enjoy the journey right along with me.

Happy Advent!

Pastor Jeny



# Christmas Day Brunch Anyone?

If you're not rushing off to Christmas dinner after service on December 25, would you like to enjoy a simple brunch in the church library?

Please let Carol Charles know if you're interested by 12/17. Even if just a few of us, we can organize a lovely, stress-free gathering.

*"I Bring Tidings of Great Joy"*

# Christmas Party

## Christmas Party Potluck

Wednesday, December 14th at 6:30pm  
NPC Fellowship Hall

Come and celebrate the holiday season by bringing a family-favorite dish. There will be food, conversation, and a gift sale!





# Coastland Commons Update

Coastland Commons gathers in the Northminster library on the second Monday of each month for community, reflection, and art. We meet from 7-8:30 and would love to see you there. Our gatherings are usually structured around a meditation and then free time to work on a creative project (poetry, watercolor, drawing, music, etc). Coastland Commons believes that creativity is a human birthright; you do not need to be an artist to participate!

## Christmas Joy Offering

During the month of December, Northminster encourages members to give "beyond our walls" via Presbyterian Church, USA's (PCUSA) Christmas Joy Offering. Fifty percent of donations go to help current and former church staff and pastors who have an urgent need due to serious illness or another reason, and the balance supports future church and community leaders, especially youth from often marginalized ethnic groups. Mark your gift "Xmas Joy" when giving by check or online.

-Jonna Reeder



## Fall Update on the Church Garden

Liz Tennant and Lisa Snow Lady

Your church garden team has been working behind the scenes to take care of our colorful and welcoming church garden and to plan ways to make the front of the church more welcoming.

- We watered and weeded the garden three times a week during the hot dry summer. We had hoped to see the rains arrive in September but had to continue to water the dry earth through mid-October.
- In early October we had a pruning party to cut back trees, bushes and plans and prepare them for winter. We also trimmed the groundcover surrounding the sidewalk trees.



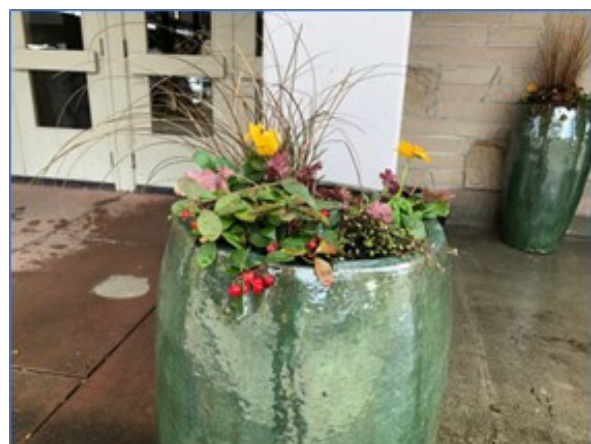
**Garden Team at the pruning party. From right to left: Bronwen Matthews, Beth Schmidt, Lisa Snow Lady, Carol Charles, and Liz Tennant**

- Our talented team member Lisa Snow Lady proposed her vision of making the front of the church more welcoming. She sketched out her idea and the team agreed to present it to Session for agreement and funding. Bronwen presented it to Session on behalf of our team. Session has approved Phase I of our plan. We have purchased and planted three colorful containers to replace the existing pots. We will be working on this project in phases, including incorporating a flowering vine in spring to climb up the post and planting the other beds using drought tolerant and low water plants.

We encourage you to check out Lisa's sketches in the Narthex and to volunteer to help us with this important point of contact with our neighbors.!



**Jim Lady moving old planter to side of church steps.**



## Northminster Support for Our Hungry Neighbors Focus on the Ballard Food Bank

Liz Tennant

Northminster has a long history of supporting the Ballard Food Bank through a combination of financial contributions through the Deacon's Fund, direct collection of needed goods, and volunteer support. We are grateful to be partnering with many other area non-profits and businesses to respond to our hungry neighbors.

On Thursday November 10th I had the opportunity to tour the Ballard Food Bank with Colleen Martinson, Director of Development and Communications. I was very impressed by what I saw and what I learned. The Food Bank opened its doors in its new facility about one year ago. It is a nicely designed facility that provides a welcoming space for people to gather and sit out front. Inside, there is a spacious light-filled hall with colorful paints and artwork on the walls. Masks are required for everyone inside. A kind greeter welcomes people who enter and gives a mask to those who need them. The greeter also answers questions, directs people to resources, and gives them a number that will be called when their time to shop arrives.

Ballard Food Bank serves over 6,000 people each month across all its programs. People come from all over Seattle to use the following services.

- **The Kindness Cafe** is on the left side as one enters the facility. Here, paid staff and volunteers prepare and serve an assortment of hot food. Anyone can order whatever they want for free. The Kindness Café serves 300-400 meals per day. During its first year the Café served 42,000 meals.
- **A grocery store - style food bank** remains the cornerstone program. It looks just like a grocery store, with shopping carts and aisles of produce, canned good and wellness products. People must register before they can shop. Clients gain access when their number is called. Shoppers can choose from a wide variety of healthy foods and wellness products four days a week. There are no income requirements. No-cook bags are available for clients who do not have access to refrigerators and stoves.



Photograph by Alabastro Photography



- **Home delivery of food to housebound clients.** During the pandemic the number served increased dramatically from 120 to 900+ households weekly when people couldn't shop in their facility. Currently there is home delivery of about 450 meals per week.
- **Weekend food for kids who are food insecure.** The Food Bank partners with 20 Northwest area schools to provide weekend meals (3 dinners, two breakfasts, two lunches and snacks) for about 450 kids who are identified as food insecure.
- **The Resource Hub.** Recognizing that hunger is just a symptom of larger challenges related to poverty and self-sufficiency, the Ballard Food Bank provides mailbox services and works with 18 agency partners to provide stabilizing services and resources. These include emergency assistance payments to prevent eviction and move people out of homelessness, assistance acquiring IDs, connection to job training, counseling, healthcare, and other services. There three small office areas for individual consultations. The day before my tour, they hosted a veterinarian to care for the pets of houseless people (in the parking lot) and a vaccination clinic.

The cost of these services has been increasing sharply as the number of people served has increased and food prices have skyrocketed. Some of the food distributed is harvested from area grocery stores, but much of it is bought in bulk. Pre-pandemic, in 2019, the Food Bank spent \$300,000 on food. They anticipate that in the coming year they will need to spend \$1.5 Million on food for all their programs.

The Food Bank has expressed how grateful they are for the contributions our church makes.

Ways we that we can continue to help include:

- Continue to provide financial support
- Do periodic drives to collect highly needed items and/or
- Volunteer to help.

To learn more visit <https://www.ballardfoodbank.org/>. To learn more by watching short videos about the food bank visit <https://vimeo.com/ballardfoodbank> .



**Lisa Lady 's Collage Class created these beautiful pieces of Advent artwork for decorating our Sanctuary!**

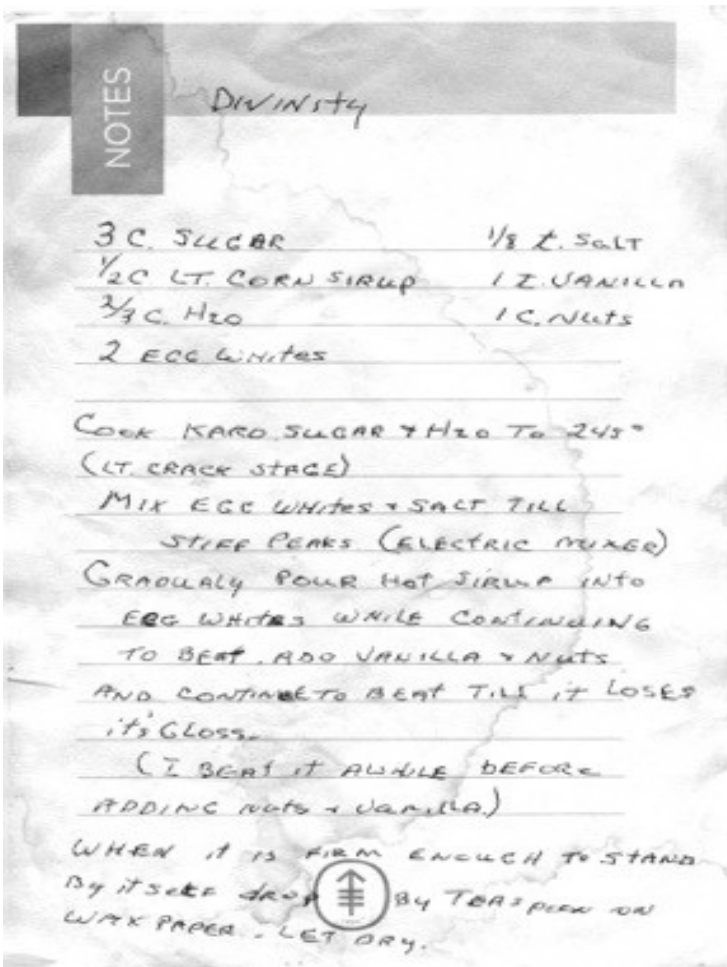
**Northminster Cooks:** The church archives contain a variety of treasures accumulated during the 133 years since the founding of Northminster. I recently uncovered the church cookbooks from 1947, 1949, 1963, and 1987. In the 1947 edition I found the chocolate sauce recipe my family has used since that date.

This led me to ask current members for the recipes of food we have savored at church gatherings or have talked about in conversation. Below you will find the divine **Divinity** recipe from **Pat French**. She made 90 packages of these to deliver in one of 2020 Friendship bags! Over the years she has brought this candy to many church events or has been known to hand you a package at church.

**Anna Ure** has been telling me about her **Scotch Shortbread** recipe which she has been making for over sixty years. Note that the cookbook was published in 1932. And here I thought Rice Flour was a new gourmet ingredient!

**Great Grama's Brownie** recipe comes from **Julia Miller**. Her family has been making it for 150 years! These made for a delicious treat at coffee hours.

Yes, these recipes could have been reformatted as a new document, but I find the original recipe has an added value for meaningful context! - Compiled by Jan Olson



Great Grama's Brownies - From Julia Miller July 2022

Preheat oven to 350°  
 Grease + flour a 8" x 8" pan  
 (double recipe for 9" x 13" pan)  
 Melt together in double boiler  
 1/3 cup butter  
 4 oz. unsweetened Baker's chocolate

In large bowl beat until light  
 1 cup sugar + 2 eggs

In small bowl sift  
 1/2 cup + 1 Tablespoon flour  
 1/4 teaspoon baking powder

Fold chocolate mixture into sugar/egg mixture  
 Fold in flour/baking powder mixture.  
 Fold in 1/2 cup chopped walnuts or pecans  
 if desired. Bake at 350° for 25 minutes



# Deacon News

Our Deacon group has resumed meeting every two months and is pleased to welcome Lisa Snow Lady to serve as a deacon! We are also grateful for the work of continuing deacons, including Nancy Ingle, Julia Miller, Liz Tennant, Dawn Thornhill, and Beth Schmidt, and for the support of Pastor Jeny.

Here is a short summary of our activities for this year:

- We have made contributions to Ballard Food Bank, Mental Health Chaplaincy, Alimentando al Pueblo, and Northgate Elementary from the funds generously donated by our congregation.
- Nancy Ingle has provided many beautiful flower arrangements for Sunday morning worship.
- Several of our group are active in helping with the Friendship Group activities.
- We write cards, make phone calls, and remember in prayer those of our congregation who have special needs. Please contact Beth Schmidt, Liz Tennant, or Pastor Jeny to share specific concerns for the Deacons.

## Upcoming outreach project:

- Our Advent project will be collecting gift card donations for our Shelter guests through the Giving Tree. Watch for details in the church weekly email news and during announcement time on Sunday mornings to learn how you can participate.
- Beth Schmidt



The congregation said a teary goodbye to Miriam at her last day as music director on  
Nov.27th

## Thank you for Reading

If you want to contribute anything to our next newsletter, please email our Director of Ministry at [adelia.nunn@northminsterpres.org](mailto:adelia.nunn@northminsterpres.org)